

# Montana State Library

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# MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of  
EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

## MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

Albert F. Root, Commissioner

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Paul R. McClure, Commissioner

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OCTOBER, 1956

### 170,000 Level Surpassed Third Successive Month

Wage earners in Montana exceeded 170,000 in September, the third successive month in that bracket. Only in two months prior to this year had 170,000 been reached on Montana payrolls—August and September of last year. Preliminary estimate for September is 170,400, more by 400 than that of September, 1955. Revised figure for August boosts that month to 172,000, or 600 above that of the preceding August, the previous record high level of wage earners in Montana.

#### Government Payrolls Up

Gains in September employment over a year earlier included 100 in manufacturing, 300 in finance, insurance and real estate, and 1,100 in government operations. Declines were 500 in construction total, 400 in mining, 100 in transportation and utilities, and 100 in finance and insurance. Trade held exactly even with a year ago, though wholesale trade gained 400 and retail trade lost a similar number of workers.

#### Utilities Use 500 More

Specific industries within the major divisions show notable variations in several instances. Employment by utilities rose 500 above a year ago, with truck, bus, and airplane operations in transportation adding another 100. At the same time interstate railroad employment declined 700. Railroad employment is in process of adjustment to new motive power, which consumes less labor.

#### Forest, Parks, Postal Crews Larger

Increases in government employment are shown as 400 in federal payrolls, divided about equally between forest and parks, and postoffice department; and 700 in state and local, occurring principally in state general staffs and in county educational forces.

#### Metal Mines Have 8,500

Metal mining employment in September, at 8,500 was 400 above that of a year ago, but quarrying and coal mining offset this in part by declining 200 while petroleum and natural gas production was down 600, more than taking up the balance.

#### Construction Sags Slightly

Building contractor employment was down 200 from September, 1955. Contractors on dams, pipelines, highways and other non-building jobs receded 600, and a 300 gain in special trade contractor employment made up part of the sag in construction.

#### September 1,600 Below August

September's deficit of 1,600 in total employment from August reflects the effect of student withdrawal from working force and return to the classroom, supplemented by the beginning of seasonal action in the lumber industry, and continuing scarcity of hardrock miners, which makes even replacement hiring difficult.

### SCATTERED SHORTAGE OF BUILDING LABOR AS SCHOOL WORKERS RETURN TO CLASSES

Employment demands in the Montana labor market continued at mid-summer high level through September, accented by the withdrawal of several thousand school and college people for work in the classrooms. No acute shortages of workers developed, though building trades craftsmen were in scarce supply throughout the state, demand for more hardrock miners was unabated, and experienced clerical workers were being sought in most office areas.

#### Sawmill and Woods Employment Eases Off

Slackening demand for lumber, and consequent weakening of the price structure, produced an easing off in sawmill and woods employment, with a probable effect of advancing the time of seasonal layoff in those activities to an earlier date than usual. The lull comes at a time when lumber and logging employment was at its highest level of the year and for several years. Reduced home-building programs throughout the area reached by Montana lumber products is ascribed as a principal reason for the declining lumber demand.

#### Work-Applicant Count in Review

	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951
February .....	13,061	12,304	12,455	10,995	10,136	12,336
April .....	7,974	9,227	8,945	6,043	5,705	7,048
June .....	4,694	5,274	5,403	3,910	2,957	4,240
August .....	2,808	2,458	3,519	2,069	1,619	2,370
September .....	2,889	2,781	3,782	2,288	1,388	2,304
October .....	3,500*	3,348	4,038	2,688	1,955	2,572
December .....		9,351	8,613	7,932	7,517	6,694

\*Estimated.

#### More Jobseekers Than in August

Jobseekers at the end of September reported by offices of the employment service remained at approximately the August level, 2,889 in September, 2,808 at the end of August, a rise of less than three percent. In terms of the working force, this represents unemployment of about one and one-third percent, which is near the barrel-bottom in usual employment experience. A year ago the late September jobseeker count was 2,781, about 100 below this year's supply.

#### Replacement Demand in Construction

Construction was a principal factor in maintaining employment demand through September, mostly for replacement rather than in the form of force expansion. At the close of the month crews at the Noxon Rapids dam in western Montana were on the decline from the August peak of 1,000, partly due to completion of preliminary contract phases of the project. The Glasgow airbase construction was about at its peak at 600, with layoffs expected to develop with coming of cold weather. Billings, Great Falls, Bozeman, Missoula, and Butte were centers of construction activity, with substantial programs also in progress at most of the other principal state centers.

#### Winter Jobs May Increase

Reports from a number of the areas indicate prospect for more winter employment in building construction than has prevailed during recent winters. Many commercial and residence structures were reported as reaching the enclosed stage during the fall months, with inside finishing to be pressed during the winter. At the Noxon and Glasgow projects the bulk of the employment is on outdoor work.

#### Highway Oiling Wanes

Highway construction has about reached the end of its oil surfacing season, and the state system will carry over some projects for finishing next summer. Employment on building and repairing the state highways was about 350 below the August level, but was 130 above that of a year ago. September figures were 1,129 by contractors, 853 on maintenance, against 1,489 and 835 in August. A year ago it was 992 and 851.

#### New Road Contracts Let

Work was in progress on 340 miles of highway construction, and on 14 bridges to cost \$2,850,000. Jobs contracted but not under way covered 71 miles of road and bridges at \$1,559,000. The highway completions in September comprised 168 miles of roadway and three small bridges.

#### Sugar Plants and Christmas Trees

Hiring of sugar refinery crews at four state plants was completed by early October, for season runs of from 60 to 120 days. About 1,200 jobs are involved. Timbered areas of the state report early hiring of Christmas tree cutters and prospect of strong but brief demand for yard workers to handle and ship the harvested trees. Much of that work is performed by persons not ordinarily in the labor market, drawn from households and farms.

Tourist traffic sustained its normal seasonal decline with the opening of schools, and employment in trade and service establishments receded in customary fashion. This slack will be taken up as holiday expansion of sales crews and fall demand for mechanics and repair men develop.



## Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary Oct. 1

**ANACONDA** Deer Lodge Philipsburg—(54 jobseekers; 20 men, 34 women; 91 men and 4 women over 45). An expected expansion in smelter employment has not developed, no present demand for additional workers. Construction on a road job and store building continues, most residential projects already completed. Potato harvest has begun, utilizing mechanical pickers and using fewer human hands than in past.

**BILLINGS**, Columbus, Hardin, Hysham, Laurel, Red Lodge, Roundup—(536 jobseekers; 303 men, 233 women; 91 men and 61 women over 45). Over 600 new job applicants listed in September, 660 in August. In-migration continues but is slightly abated. New construction projects include a court house, telephone building addition, loan office, and two shopping centers, along with sustained activity in home building. Railroads have further reduced their crews—20 maintenance of way and 50 round-house employees released—in transforming to new motive power. Two sugar refineries opened early in October for two-month campaign.

**BOZEMAN**, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident—(147 jobseekers; 80 men, 67 women; 9 men and 6 women over 45). Vegetable canneries has ended its season, retaining small warehouse crew. Work on new field house and college building addition progressing, latter near completion, field house nearly enclosed. New high school walls up, roof begun, will be enclosed for winter work. Two road jobs finishing and another nearly done, one started late in September. Construction men scarce.

**BUTTE**, Virginia City, Whitehall—(269 jobseekers; 144 men, 125 women; 61 men and 24 women over 45). Shortage of miner applicants continues, lack of housing contributes to recruitment lag. Several hundred miners who left for summer employment expected back in late fall. Two additional pit-mine shafts to be sunk, one in January, another start in March. Building construction employment is brisk, current shortage of carpenters, glaziers, and plumbers. New apartment house, railroad station, and office building to start soon.

**CUT BANK**—(45 jobseekers; 30 men, 15 women; 5 men and 5 women over 45). Construction less than a year ago, though most building skills are in short supply. Some replacements used, as students returned to classrooms. Four or more road projects expected to start soon, new motel to be built in Glacier park. Oil activity slowing down in employment.

**DILLON**—(34 jobseekers; 23 men, 11 women; 12 men and 3 women over 45). Harvest nearly completed, releasing mi-

### Employment—

	Sept. 1956	Aug. 1956	Sept. 1955	Sept. Avg. 1950-1955
Industrial Employment	170,400	172,000	170,000	159,400
New Job Applicants	3,020	3,250	2,539	2,520
Job Applicants, End of Month	2,889	2,808	2,781	2,506

### Insured Employment—

	Oct. 5 1956	Sept. 7 1956	Oct. 7 1955	Avg. 1st Oct. Wk. 1950-1955
New and Renewal Claims	274	171	291	258
Unemployed Weeks Filed	717	685	854	980
Total Unemployment Claims	971	856	1,145	1,238

grant labor. Of 40 mile railroad spur to phosphate beds 15 miles are completed, 80 men on the job. Tungsten prospect north of Dillon employs 20 men. A mill for handling gold-bearing ore is being reactivated and will use crew of 15. Retail store closing, releases 6 workers.

**GLASGOW**, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim—(56 jobseekers; 35 men, 21 women; 7 men and 5 women over 45). Construction employment continues at high level, with 600 on new airbase projects, 15 residences, and an office building. Concrete work will continue most of October, but crews will be trimmed as cold weather intervenes. Most road jobs in area completed and farm work is at the end of its season.

**GLENDIVE**, Circle, Wibaux—(32 jobseekers; 18 men, 14 women; 3 men and 4 women over 45). Shortage of carpenters, welders and building labor expected in October. Pipe line to Pine Unit field begun, a gas installation there about complete but other developments starting. Shrinkage in tourist traffic reflecting in reduced crews in trade and service establishments.

**GREAT FALLS**, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford—(355 jobseekers; 197 men, 158 women; 60 men and 49 women over 45). Less labor supply than in August, but no shortage except of building craftsmen. Construction program includes street paving over most of city, curbing and sewer replacements, new dam for power plant, airbase buildings, and runways, business and residence building. All fully manned except the dam, which is in preliminary stage. Considerable in-migration noted. Smelter hiring of replacements finds ample supply available.

**HAMILTON**, Stevensville—(149 jobseekers; 83 men, 66 women; 18 men and 13 women over 45). Increased labor supply results from poor crop year on farms, decrease in construction volume, and receding market for lumber and wood products. Only shortages are for plumbers, electricians, and auto mechanics. Beet harvest begun, Christmas tree harvest will start about October 15.

**HAVRE**, Chinook, Harlem—(52 jobseekers; 22 men, 30 women; 6 men and 3 women over 45). Transients scarce, and few new entrants to labor market. Increased construction demand in sight. Railroad used extra repair crew in September. Farm harvest completed. Present employment level expected to continue through October and until cold weather halts outdoor work.

**HELENA**, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs—(138 jobseekers; 93 men, 45 women; 40 men and 14 women over 45). Construction continuing, with several projects nearing completion. Carpenters, and other building skills, scarce, along with stenographic help. Laundry plant re-opened in September, calling 45 back to their jobs. Harvest of potato crop helped by 50 Indians. New dormitory and auditorium being built at Boulder, will be finished early in 1957.

**KALISPELL**, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby, Whitefish—(300 jobseekers; 191 men, 109 women; 54 men and 20 women over 45). Construction employment maintains its high summer level, with occasional shortages of building skills. Decline in tourist trade has reacted on employment in trade and service. Receding lumber demand and price level is slowing the logging and sawmill employment and may hasten seasonal layoffs. Christmas tree harvest begins in October.

**LEWISTOWN**, Harlowton, Rye, Winnett—(60 jobseekers; 20 men, 40 women; 8 men and 11 women over 45). Labor demand was stronger in September. The gas pipeline is under construction, road jobs are being pushed for completion, one store building is already finished and another more than half done. Work at the gypsum plant was cut from three shifts to two, but most of those displaced were absorbed in other sections of the enterprise.

**LIVINGSTON**, Big Timber—(36 jobseekers; 24 men, 12 women; 7 men and 5 women over 45). Construction employment active through September, with work on Yellowstone Park project in full swing and the railroad shop reconversion erecting new forms for new structures. Finish carpenters

## EIGHT YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS, BY MONTHS (in Thousands)

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1949	137.1	135.5	137.7	144.0	147.3	151.0	150.0	150.1	149.8	148.2	146.1	143.3	145.0
1950	133.2	132.2	135.2	142.1	147.3	153.6	154.9	157.1	156.8	152.2	150.7	148.8	147.0
1951	141.9	139.4	140.3	145.9	149.4	154.1	153.5	154.6	154.3	152.4	151.7	150.6	149.9
1952	140.5	140.7	143.0	149.7	154.8	159.9	159.5	161.2	160.4	157.9	156.0	154.9	153.1
1953	145.8	144.5	146.3	149.7	153.1	158.0	158.5	160.6	160.3	159.6	157.6	156.4	154.2
1954	146.7	145.5	147.2	151.1	155.7	161.6	164.1	165.4	154.8	153.9	153.2	155.7	155.0
1955	148.4	146.8	147.4	153.4	158.4	166.8	169.1	171.4	170.0	167.3	161.7	159.6	160.1
1956	154.7	152.2	152.7	158.0	163.0	169.9	170.8	172.0	170.4				



## Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary Oct. 1

(Continued from previous page)  
are in demand, also building labor. The park work will cease with severe weather, railroad project hopes to continue into winter. Logging at full scale to provide winter supply of timber for sawmills.

**MILES CITY, Baker, Broadus, Ekalaka, Colstrip, Forsyth, Jordan, Terry**—(90 jobseekers; 52 men, 38 women; 16 men and 6 women over 45). Labor demand strengthened in September with a start on several new projects in the Miles City area. Bridge contract employs 20 men and is one-fourth complete. Skilled men are scarce.

**MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee, Superior**—(322 jobseekers; 183 men, 139 women; 36 men and 25 women over 45). Full crews continue in logging and sawmills, though weakening demand may bring cut-backs. Plumbers and fitters scarce as gas installations continue. Demand for teamsters, carpenters, and building labor is declining. New prospects include three bridges, a new bank building. Two business buildings in process with full crews. Sugar plant opened in October, crew of 260, for 60 day run. Christmas tree harvest starting.

**POLSON**—(92 jobseekers; 62 men, 30 women; 19 men and 14 women over 45). Farmers are seeking winter employment, adding to work-applicant list. Road job at St. Ignatius finished, new project held up by right of way, will start next spring. Lumber and plywood price lag has idled about 30 in local plants for undetermined period.

**SHELBY, Chester, Conrad**—(17 jobseekers; 6 men, 11 women; 4 men and 4 women over 45). High level employment into October, with full crews on grain elevator and on road jobs, street improvement winding up. Residence and commercial buildings are reaching the enclosed stage, permitting inside work as winter approaches. Labor supply still dependent upon clearance and transients.

**SIDNEY**—(22 jobseekers; 11 men and 11 women; 5 men and 2 women over 45). Carpenters in demand through September; new power plant, lodge hall, new homes and warehouse under way. Short of 12 truck drivers with trucks on road project. Work halted on the armory, lack of materials. Sugar refinery started in early October with crew of 250, may operate through January.

**THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs**—(40 jobseekers; 20 men, 20 women; 11 men and 7 women over 45). Construction demand brisk in early September, tapered later. Some force reduction in prospect at the Noxon dam as early phases reach completion. Seasonal maximum of employment passed on that project, will decline as cold weather develops. Lumber employment continuing in face of reduced demand and price levels of the product. Some operators expect early layoffs in the woods.

**WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey**—(43 jobseekers; 25 men, 18 women; 4 men and 7 women over 45). Little change in employment field through September. New projects include an office building, school addition, overpass and residences; two schools and a road job finishing; work continues on two churches, sewer and water installations, telephone lines, and a school building. Most buildings will soon be enclosed, furnishing inside work in cold weather.

## ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT			Net Change	
	Sept. 1956 (2)	Aug. 1956 (3)	Sept. 1955	Aug. '56 to Sept. '56	Sept. '55 to Sept. '56
<b>NONAGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES.....</b>	<b>170,400</b>	<b>172,000</b>	<b>170,000</b>	<b>-1,600</b>	<b>400</b>
<b>Manufacturing.....</b>	<b>22,100</b>	<b>22,300</b>	<b>22,000</b>	<b>-200</b>	<b>100</b>
Durable goods.....	14,200	14,600	13,900	-400	300
Lumber and timber products.....	8,300	8,500	8,300	-200	00
Primary metals.....	4,500	4,700	4,300	-200	200
Other (4).....	1,400	1,400	1,300	00	100
Nondurable goods.....	7,900	7,700	8,100	200	-200
Food and kindred products.....	4,200	4,100	4,100	100	100
Printing and publishing.....	1,600	1,500	1,700	100	-100
Petroleum refining.....	1,300	1,300	1,300	00	00
Other (5).....	800	800	1,000	00	-200
<b>Mining.....</b>	<b>11,400</b>	<b>11,700</b>	<b>11,800</b>	<b>-300</b>	<b>-400</b>
Metal mining.....	8,500	8,800	8,100	-300	400
Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic.....	700	700	900	00	-200
Petroleum-natural gas production.....	2,200	2,200	2,800	00	-600
<b>Contract Construction.....</b>	<b>14,300</b>	<b>14,400</b>	<b>14,800</b>	<b>-100</b>	<b>-500</b>
Contractors, building construction.....	6,100	6,300	6,300	-200	-200
Contractors, other than building.....	3,800	3,700	4,400	100	-600
Contractors, special trade.....	4,400	4,400	4,100	00	300
<b>Transportation and utilities.....</b>	<b>22,600</b>	<b>23,000</b>	<b>22,700</b>	<b>-400</b>	<b>-100</b>
Interstate railroads.....	12,600	12,700	13,300	-100	-700
Transportation except railroads.....	4,000	4,100	3,900	-100	100
Utilities including communication.....	6,000	6,200	5,500	-200	500
<b>Trade.....</b>	<b>41,500</b>	<b>41,900</b>	<b>41,500</b>	<b>-400</b>	<b>00</b>
Wholesale trade.....	9,400	9,400	9,000	00	400
Retail trade.....	32,100	32,500	32,500	-400	-400
General merchandise and apparel.....	6,100	6,100	6,300	00	-200
Food stores.....	4,600	4,500	4,600	100	00
Eating and drinking establishments.....	8,100	8,600	8,200	-500	-100
Automotive and filling stations.....	6,400	6,400	6,300	00	100
Retail trade not elsewhere classified.....	6,900	6,900	7,100	00	-200
<b>Finance, insurance and real estate.....</b>	<b>5,600</b>	<b>5,700</b>	<b>5,300</b>	<b>-100</b>	<b>300</b>
<b>Services and miscellaneous.....</b>	<b>21,200</b>	<b>21,700</b>	<b>21,300</b>	<b>-500</b>	<b>-100</b>
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc.....	3,400	3,900	3,500	-500	-100
Personal services.....	2,300	2,300	2,300	00	00
Other (6).....	15,500	15,500	15,500	00	00
<b>Government.....</b>	<b>31,700</b>	<b>31,300</b>	<b>30,600</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>1,100</b>
Federal.....	8,300	8,700	7,900	-400	400
State and local.....	23,400	22,600	22,700	800	700
<b>Great Falls Area (Cascade County).....</b>	<b>19,300</b>	<b>19,500</b>	<b>19,000</b>	<b>-200</b>	<b>300</b>
Manufacturing.....	3,000	3,000	2,900	00	100
Contract construction.....	1,800	1,900	2,000	-100	-200
Transportation and utilities.....	2,400	2,400	2,500	00	-100
Trade, wholesale and retail.....	6,000	6,100	5,800	-100	200
Services and miscellaneous (7).....	3,700	3,700	3,500	00	200
Government.....	2,400	2,400	2,300	00	100

(1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.

(2) Preliminary estimates based on return from sample of 689 selected Montana establishments.

(3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,068 such establishments.

(4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.

(5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.

(6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, nonprofit membership organizations and business not otherwise classified.

(7) Same as (6) above, also includes finance, real estate and mining.

## COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET TRANSACTIONS IN SEPT. 1956, AND SEPT. 1955

Employment Service Office	New Job Applicants				Jobseekers in File				Job Placements								U. I. Claims	
	Sept. 1956		Sept. 1955		Sept. 1956		Sept. 1955		September 1956				September 1955				Wk. 10-5	
	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	1956	1955
Anaconda.....	33	7	47	13	54	12	48	8	29	117	146	33	17	34	51	17	21	32
Billings.....	612	251	434	138	536	166	451	127	577	949	1,526	430	562	927	1,489	535	169	155
Bozeman.....	82	22	121	29	147	40	123	31	242	272	514	157	246	198	444	111	24	12
Butte.....	334	113	199	54	269	36	294	55	186	9	195	87	340	5	345	144	119	179
Cut Bank.....	61	38	25	6	45	14	17	2	51	348	399	173	62	243	305	53	23	7
Dillon.....	42	18	55	23	34	12	46	9	56	90	146	76	52	86	138	72	7	9
Glasgow.....	94	35	117	53	56	5	105	19	202	428	630	144	210	290	500	125	12	27
Glendive.....	92	29	63	21	32	6	46	11	117	71	188	78	103	61	164	86	11	7
Great Falls.....	366	99	382	125	355	89	280	75	392	596	988	264	578	411	989	382	145	149
Hamilton.....	51	15	19	1	149	31	40	8	37	143	180	22	42	127	169	46	22	12
Havre.....	79	24	89	28	52	12	22	6	277	435	712	316	255	326	581	156	22	6
Helena.....	227	100	140	34	138	42	185	46	194	63	257	120	200	78	278	136	66	76
Kalispell.....	237	67	203	39	300	69	346	98	260	33	293	124	220	8	228	89	69	170
Lewistown.....	42	4	51	18	60	4	32	10	64	36	100	37	59	87	146	61	27	10
Livingston.....	63	20	56	17	36	12	106	33	104	27	131	53	90	44	134	46	26	52
Miles City.....	108	32	85	34	90	11	54	17	99	66	165	71	92	91	183	79	23	26
Missoula.....	238	89	212	62	322	91	302	93	313	80	393	178	223	64	287	134	77	89
Polson.....	72	24	42	8	92	24	98	22	63	14	77	30	54	10	64	23	46	51
Shelby.....	52	17	60	25	17	2	27	2	165	274	439	149	126	349	475	126	15	16
Sidney.....	33	8	31	6	22	3	22	5	67	58	125	44	87	43	130	50	9	12
Thomp. Fls.....	51	20	51	15	40	10	108	40	65	....	65	34	100	....	100	48	36	31
Wolf Point.....	51	20	57	12	43	12	29	7	52	109	161	68	48	89	137	32	22	17
TOTALS.....	3,020	1,052	2,539	761	2,889	703	2,781	724	3,612	4,218	7,830	2,688	3,766	3,571	7,337	2,551	991	1,145

\*Includes 33 claims of Federal Employees US Program instituted January 1, 1955.

## AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)  
(Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

INDUSTRY	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Sept. (1) 1956	Aug. (2) 1956	Sept. 1955	Sept. (1) 1956	Aug. (2) 1956	Sept. 1955	Sept. (1) 1956	Aug. (2) 1956	Sept. 1955
All Manufacturing.....	\$ 94.97	\$ 94.32	\$ 90.35	42.2	42.1	42.3	\$ 2.25	\$ 2.24	\$ 2.13
Durable goods.....	99.60	98.00	95.03	43.8	43.4	43.7	2.27	2.26	2.17
Primary metals.....	101.95	101.95	98.50	44.3	44.3	44.4	2.30	2.30	2.22
Nondurable goods.....	85.22	87.05	82.48	38.7	39.2	39.9	2.20	2.22	2.07
Food and kindred products.....	67.45	73.75	69.93	38.4	40.2	41.1	1.76	1.84	1.70
All Mining.....	101.72	108.48	100.85	39.2	42.4	42.2	2.59	2.56	2.39
Metal mining.....	110.88	110.88	104.09	43.0	43.0	43.5	2.58	2.58	2.39
Transportation and Utilities (except railrds.)	87.03	87.26	82.17						
Transportation (except railroads).....	104.03	105.25	95.02						
Utilities and communication.....	77.42	77.68	75.83	41.3	41.3	41.0	1.88	1.88	1.85

(1) Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION  
COMMISSION OF MONTANA  
MITCHELL BUILDING  
P. O. Box 1728  
HELENA, MONTANA  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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President  
Montana School of Mines  
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